WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Container usable as a working space with a variable volume, comprising:

a basic container having a floor wall, a roof wall and at least one side wall that is foldable about a horizontal axis;

at least one expansion element that is movable out of the basic container, the at least one expansion element having a floor wall, a side open to the basic container and a front wall situated opposite the open side, and being open toward a top thereof, and, in a moved-out condition, a roof wall of the at least one expansion element being formed by an associated folded-open side wall of the basic container;

a lifting device assigned to the at least one expansion element for lowering the at least one expansion element such that, after moving of the expansion element out of the basic container, the floor wall of the moved-out expansion element and the basic container are situated at the same level, and for lifting the at least one expansion element such that, after lowering, the expansion element is movable back into the basic container; wherein the lifting device is configured to be active between the folded-open side wall and an expansion element.

2. Container according to Claim 1, wherein the container has two foldable side walls and two expansion elements that are movable out of the basic container in opposite directions from each other, the dimensions of the expansion

elements being selected such that one expansion element is movable into the other expansion element, and a lifting device is associated with each expansion element to be effective between a folded-open side wall and an expansion element.

3. Container according to Claim 1, wherein tracks are provided on the at least one foldable side wall to guide the at least one expansion elements via rollers when moving out of or into the basic container.

4. Container according to Claim 1, wherein the lifting device is a cable winch.

5. Container according to Claim 4, wherein a cable of the cable winch is guided by guide rollers, a first group of the guide rollers being arranged on the at least one expansion element, and a second group of the guide rollers being arranged on traveling carriages guided in the track by via the rollers.

6. Container according to Claim 5, wherein guiding devices for guiding the at least one expansion element during the lifting and lowering movement are arranged on the traveling carriages.

7. Container according to Claim 4, wherein the cable winch assigned to the at least one expansion element comprises two cables associated with one of two expansion elements so as to be windable off or on by a common drive.

8. Container according to Claim 1, wherein surface elements are provided to close gaps between the at least one expansion element and the associated folded-up side wall resulting from the lowering of the at least one expansion element, whereby an interior space is created which is completely closed off toward the outside of the container.

9. Container according to Claim 8, wherein the surface elements have a multi- shell construction.

10. Container according to Claim 9, wherein a shell of the multi-shell surface element is provided for a gap between the front wall and the foldable side wall of the basic container and is rigidly fastened to the foldable side wall.

11. Container according to Claim 8, wherein the surface elements are foldable away from the associated foldable side wall of the basic container.

12. Container according to Claim 11, wherein the surface elements have a multi-shell construction.

13. Container according to Claim 8, wherein the surface elements are provided at a side wall of the at least one expansion element and are vertically movable with respect to the side wall.

14. Container according to Claim 13, wherein the surface elements have a multi-shell construction.

15. Container according to Claim 13, wherein when the at least one expansion element is moved out of the basic container, the surface elements are guided in a path arranged at the track.

16. Container according to Claim 8, wherein seals are provided for sealing between the surface elements and the expansion element or the basic container.

17. Container according to Claim 16, wherein the surface elements have a multi-shell construction.

18. Container according to Claim 17, wherein a shell of the multi-shell surface element is provided for a gap between the front wall and the foldable side wall of the basic container and is rigidly fastened to the foldable side wall.

19. Container according to Claim 16, wherein the surface elements are foldable away from the associated foldable side wall of the basic container.

20. Container according to Claim 16, wherein the seals are at least one of sliding and contact seals.